MICROCOPY RESOLUTION TEST CHART

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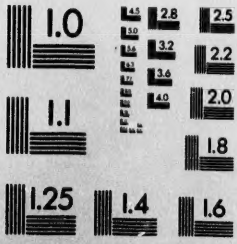

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MEMORANDUM

RESPECTING INDIAN INSTITUTES AND BOARDING SCHOOLS IN ONTARIO, MANITOBA, THE NORTH-WEST AND BRITISH COLUMBIA.

It is well known to the Government that the Methodist Church has always taken a deep interest in the welfare of the Indians of this Dominion, as shown by its large annual expenditure on mission work among them. It has also been glad to co-operate with the Government in promoting the education of Indian youth, and is in hearty sympathy with the policy of gathering Indian boys and girls into Boarding Schools and Industrial Institutes, being convinced that this course will yield more satisfactory results than the old system of day schools on the Reserves. While the Government is under obligation to provide for the education of its Indian wards, we understand it to be its policy to invite the co-operation of the churches in this work, and that it desires to act impartially toward the several denominations that are actively engaged in mission work among the Indians But in seeking to develop this form of training, we submit that the Methodist Church has not received the consideration from the Department of Indian Affairs to which it is fairly entitled.

In Ontario, so far as Institute work is concerned, matters are now in a fairly satisfactory shape. The new building at Muncey supplies a long-felt want, and puts us in a position to do still more effective work than in the past. We think, however, that the authorized number of pupils at Muncey should not be less than one hundred, instead of eighty-five as at present; but even on this basis it is impossible to receive all the Indian youth who desire admission. This circumstance suggests the desirableness of additional provision in the form of local boarding schools, where the younger children might be taught and trained till they were of a proper age to enter the Muncey Institute. This suggestion is emphasized by the unsatisfactory results of the present day-school system. It seems to be impossible to secure in the day-school on an Indian Reserve anything like a regular attendance, and in many schools the average attendance does not justify the annual expenditure. It is our conviction that a limited number of boarding schools, placed at a distance from the Reserves, would provide in the best way for the educational needs of the Indian children, and that the present day-schools might be closed. An exception might be made in the case of bands, where the number of children of school age is large, or where the Indians are willing to pay the teacher out of their own funds. Should the suggestion respecting boarding schools commend itself to the Department, we will be prepared to co-operate most heartily in regard to those Reserves where we have established missions, and those schools over which we have control.

In Manitoba, the necessities of the case have been largely met by the erection of the new Institute building, at Brandon. When occupied to its full capacity, it will provide for some time for the needs of those Indian bands included in the missions of the Methodist Church around Lake Winnipeg, and to the north and east, and recent correspondence from some of the missions indicates that it can be filled in the near future, as some difficulties in the way of obtaining pupils have been mainly overcome. It is our earnest desire that no time be lost in securing additional pupils, and that as soon as seventy-five or upwards are in attendance, the control of the Institute be given, as promised, to the Methodist Church on the usual per capita basis. The present system, which makes the Principal virtually a subordinate, renders efficient administration difficult, if not impossible. In this connection we call attention to the fact that the Principal appointed by the Methodist Church was removed from the building to the town of Brandon without any communication with those by whom he had been appointed. It will be seen at once that a Principal is placed at a great disadvantage when compelled to reside at a distance of several miles from the institution which he is supposed to control, and we trust that no unnecessary time will be lost in erecting a suitable building for his accommodation.

Turning now to British Columbia and the North-West Territories, an examination of the Departmental Reports for 1895 reveals not only serious inequalities as between the different denominations, but what appears to us to be a marked discrimination against the Methodist Church. In British Columbia there are ten Institutes and Boarding Schools, distributed as follows:

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Denomination.	Class of School.	Pupils on Roll.	Average Attend'ce.	Grant Provided.			Expenditure as per Auditor-General's Rept.
				Per Capita.	For How Many.	Total Grant.	
Undenominational—							
Metlakahtla	Industrial	31	16	$131	43	$5,640	$3,617
Roman Catholic—							
Kamloops	Industrial	27	25	130	25	3,250	4,125
Kootenay	"	50	50	130	50	6,500	6,505
Kuper Island	"	33	27	130	30	3,900	6,393
William's Lake	"	41	37	130	35	4,550	6,525
St. Mary's Mission	Boarding School	63	55	60	45	2,400	2,400
		214	194	....	185	$20,600	$25,948
Episcopalian—							
Alert Bay	Industrial	19	12	$130	35	4,550	1,410
Yale	Boarding School	25	20	60	25	1,500	1,500
		44	32	....	60	$6,050	$2,910
Methodist—							
Coqualeetza	Industrial	97	76	$130	17	2,210	2,200
Port Simpson (Girls)	Boarding School	32	17	60	20	1,200	863
		129	93	....	37	$3,410	$3,063

A summary of the foregoing table gives the following results for the year ended June 30th, 1895:

One undenominational Institute, with 31 pupils on the roll, average attendance 16, is voted $5,640, or a per capita of $131 for 43 pupils.

Four Roman Catholic Institutes, with 151 on the rolls and 139 average attendance, are voted $18,200, or a per capita of $130 for 140 pupils; and one Roman Catholic Boarding School, with 63 on the roll and 55 average attendance, is voted $2,400, or $60 per capita for 40 pupils. Total for five Institutions, $20,600.

One Episcopalian Institute, with 19 on the roll and 12 average attendance, is voted $4,550, or $130 per capita for 35 pupils; and one Episcopalian Boarding School, with 25 on the roll and 20 average attendance, is voted $1,500, or $60 per capita for 25 pupils. Total for two Institutions, $6,050.

One Methodist Institute, with 97 on the roll, 76 average attendance, is voted $2,210, or $130 per capita for 17 pupils; and one Methodist Boarding School, with 32 on the roll and 17 average attendance, is voted $1,200, or $60 per capita for 20 pupils.

Putting these figures in another form we find that in the case of the Episcopalian schools, provision is made for 50% in excess of the average attendance; in the undenominational Institute for 169% in excess; in the Roman Catholic Schools for 5% *less* than the average attendance; and in the Methodist Schools for 150% less. At the Chilliwack Institute the average attendance last year was 76, and although earnest requests were made for a per capita grant for at least 50 pupils, the actual grant is for 17 only. In two instances, we believe, a larger sum was put in the estimates, but it was struck out in Committee. We have further to represent that in the application of the grant 17 children are selected by name; and when one of these dies or is removed from the school, the Department claims the right to deduct that proportion of the grant, although scores of other children are known to be in the Institute for whom no grant is made. In addition to all this we understand that the cost of buildings for the Institutes controlled by the Roman Catholic and Anglican churches was provided from public funds, but the Methodists were compelled to provide their own sites and buildings at a cost of over $25,000, less $5,000 received from the Indian Department in aid of the Institute building at Chilliwack.

In presenting these contrasts we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not complain of the amounts paid to other denominations, provided they are doing the work and keeping the schools up to the standard of efficiency required by the Government. But if, as we are given to understand, it is the policy of the Government to invite the co-operation of the churches in the work of educating and civilizing the Indians, we submit that there should be some approach to equality in the dealings of the Government with the churches, and that we should no longer be subjected to the humiliating discrimination so apparent in the past.

In Manitoba and the North-West Territories the figures are equally striking, as the following table will show:

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Denomination.	Class of School.	Pupils on Roll.	Average Attendance.	Grant Provided. Per Capita.	For How Many	Total Grant.	Expenditure as per Auditor-General's Rept.
Roman Catholic—							
St. Boniface	Industrial	101	85	$130	81	$10,500	$11,209
Qu'Appelle	"	228	191	130	177	23,000	28,967
High River	"	122	105	130	129	16,800	22,275
Water Hen River	Boarding	10	10	60	10	600	600
Duck Lake	"	30	22	72	30	2,160	1,794
Lac la Biche	"	33	25	72	18	1,296	1,361
Muscowequan's	"	20	15	72	20	1,440	1,384
Onion Lake	"	22	20	72	20	1,440	1,440
Pine Creek	"	10	10	60	10	600	600
St. Albert	"	70	63	72	65	4,680	4,502
		646	546	..	560	$62,516	$74,132
Episcopalian—							
St. Paul's	Industrial	81	70	$130	76†	9,900	16,484
Washakada (Elkhorn)	"	99	90	130	76†	9,900	15,178
Battleford	"	120	100	130	100	13,000	25,440
St. John's	Boarding	41	32	72	35	2,520	2,269
White Eagle	"	18	9	72	15	1,080	1,251
St. Paul	"	43	41	72	40	2,880	3,023
Emmanuel	College	30	25	72	36	2,600	2,224
Gordon	Boarding	21	13	72	18	1,296	1,319
Onion Lake	"	6	5	72	16	1,152	316
Piegan	"	31	22	72	15	1,080	1,156
Sarcee	"	27	18	72	15	1,080	1,090
Lesser Slave Lake	"	22	16	72	14	1,000	1,000
		539	441	..	456	$47,488	$70,750
Presbyterian—							
Regina	Industrial	137	110	$130	150	19,500	17,630
Portage la Prairie	Boarding	31	19	72	20	1,440	....
Birtle	"	35	18	72	20	1,440	1,577
Crowstand	"	35	20	72	30	2,160	1,527
File Hills	"	14	9	72	10	720	739
Round Lake	"	21	14	72	20	1,440	943
		273	190	..	250	$26,700	$22,416
Methodist—							
Brandon	Industrial	49	35	$130	50	7,000	7,489
Red Deer	"	61	34	140	50	7,000	6,298
McDougall	Boarding	37	22	72	34	2,448	1,680
		147	..	91	134	$16,448	$15,467

[Note.—A uniform per capita has been assumed for purpose of comparison except in two cases, where the grant seemed to be net. The amount voted for St. Paul's is assumed, as figures are not given in Blue Book. The amounts for Brandon and Battleford are also assumed, as all expenses are paid by Government. Cents are omitted in all cases.]

The above table shows that for three Roman Catholic Institutes with 451 pupils on the rolls, average attendance 381, there was an aggregate vote of $50,300; actual payments as per Auditor-General's Report, $62,451. For seven Boarding Schools controlled by the same Church, with 195 on the rolls, average attendance 165, the aggregate vote was $12,216; actual payments, $11,681. Total amount voted, $62,516; total paid, $74,132.

For three Church of England Institutes, with 300 on the rolls, average attendance 260, there would have been a vote on the assumed per capita of about $33,800; but the actual expenditure appears to have been over $57,000, all expenses, in some instances, being met by the Government. For nine Boarding Schools, under the control of the same Church, with 239 on the rolls, average attendance 181, the vote stood at $14,688, the actual expenditure at $13,648. Total assumed vote, $48,488; total expended, $70.748.

For one Presbyterian Institute, with 137 on the roll, average attendance 110, there was a vote of $19,500; actually expended, $17,636. For five Boarding Schools, with 136 on the rolls, the vote was $7,200; actual expenditure $4,786. Total vote, $26,700; total expended, $22,416.

For two Methodist Institutes, with 110 on the rolls, average attendance 69, there was an assumed vote of say, $14,000; actual expenditure, $13,787. In the case of Brandon, all expenses are met, for the present, by the Government. For one Methodist Boarding School with 37 on the roll, average attendance 22, there was a vote of $2,448; actually expended $1,680, Total vote, $16,448; total expenditure, $15 467.

Since the foregoing figures were prepared we have been informed that in the estimates for the present year provision is being made for 89 pupils at Red Deer, instead of 40 as at present. This will meet present necessities so far as Institute work is con-

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cerned; and if a somewhat similar enlargement is made at the McDougall Orphanage, and reasonable facilities given us in the matter of Boarding Schools in Keewatin and the Territories, the whole case will be met. What we have had chiefly to complain of is the fact that, while abundant provision has been made for the educational work of the other denominations among the Indians, and payments made far in excess of amounts voted, we have been cramped into the narrowest limits, our work made to appear small and insignificant, and the rules very rigidly applied respecting payments.

Taking the whole Dominion, according to the Blue Book of 1895, the Roman Catholic Church controls 17 Industrial Institutes and Boarding Schools, with Government appropriations aggregating $87,800, and an expenditure of $104,531. The Episcopalian Church has 15 Institutes and Boarding Schools, for which the provision amounts to $59,538, and the expenditure to some $77,800. The Presbyterian Church, with but little mission work among the Indians, has 6 Institutes and Boarding Schools, with an appropriation of $26,700, and expenditure of $22,416, while the Methodist Church, the largest Protestant body in the Dominion, has but 6 Institutes and Boarding Schools, with a grant of $24,958, and an expenditure of $23,630. If this marked difference were the result of lack of enterprise on our part, in the work of Indian education, we would have no ground of complaint; but since we are expending annually, from our own funds, a large amount of money in this work, and have urged upon the Government many times, during the last ten or twelve years, the removal of the disabilities under which we labor, it must be apparent that the responsibility does not rest with us.

The Government cannot fail to be aware of the fact that Christian missions are a most potent factor in the civilization of the Indian tribes. It is due to this influence, more than any other, that tribal wars have ceased, and that those Indians who are under the care of the missionaries are obedient to the laws and are friends of the Government. We call attention to the fact that during the troubles with the Indians in the North-West, not a single Indian connected with any of our missions, was implicated in the revolt. It is also well known that the firm attitude of Chief Pakan and his people at White Fish Lake contributed more than anything else to prevent a general uprising among the Crees.

In Indian mission work some of the churches have been much more active than others, and this has given them a "sphere of influence" that places them in a better position than others, to aid the Government in its civilizing and educating work. In making appropriations to schools and institutes, we think the expenditure of the churches should be taken into account on the principle of "helping those who help themselves." Unfortunately some of the churches do not publish an annual report of agents employed and money spent on Indian Missions, and we are therefore without accurate information on which to base a comparison. Suffice it to say, however, that the Methodist Church is spending over $40,000 annually on its Indian Missions, over and above the grants from the Government in aid of schools; and that in our Indian schools in Ontario and Quebec, we pay, in every instance, one-half of the teacher's salary—something which is not done, so far as the Blue Books show, by any other Church.

According to the last census 28,192 Indians are classed as "Protestants." We have no statistics showing the relative numbers claimed by other Protestant churches, but we claim that probably not less than 16,000 are under the care of missionaries of the Methodist Church; and this fact is sufficient of itself to show how utterly inadequate is the provision, in the matter of Boarding Schools and Institutes, for the children of Methodist Indians who ought to have the advantages of such training.

Turning now to another aspect of the question, we find that the total number of pupils enrolled in Institutes and Schools of all kinds (boarding and day) in 1894, was 7,052, and that the Government appropriation amounted to $223,834, or an average per capita of $31.74. Distributing the pupils among the various churches as per returns, we reach the following result:

Denomination.	No. of Pupils Enrolled.	Average per capita.	Grant on per capita basis should be.	Actual Grant Provided.	Actual per capita.
Roman Catholic	2939	....	$93,284	$101,180	$34 43
Episcopal	2308	....	73,256	68,670	29 75
Methodist	1470	....	46,658	25,712	17 49
Presbyterian	335	....	10,632	28,272	84 40
	7052	$31 74	$223,830	$223,834	....

Averages like the above are not relied upon as an accurate presentation of the case, as one Church at least does only Institute and Boarding School work, and the per capita grant in consequence appears abnormally large. But the figures are introduced for the purpose of showing that whatever basis of computation is adopted, the Methodist Church, in regard to grants, is placed at a disadvantage.

The points on which we desire the favorable consideration of the Government are the following:

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ONTARIO.

1. An increase of pupils at Muncey from 85 to 100, and a modification of the method of computing attendance. That is, when a pupil leaves the institution during the year, another may be put in his place and the attendance credited on the returns.

2. The establishing of several boarding schools, instead of the existing day schools on our missions.

MANITOBA.

1. Increase of pupils at Brandon to the capacity of the building. 2. Erection of a dwelling for the Principal. 3. Placing the Institution on a per capita basis when there are, say, 80 pupils in attendance. 4. After that, leaving the Principal entirely free in the matter of engaging and dismissing employees. 5. Provision for one or more boarding schools on Lake Winnipeg, instead of the day schools now conducted on our missions.

NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES.

1. Enlargement of Red Deer Institute to accommodate 100 pupils, and writing off of claim for former advances.

2. Enlargement of McDougall Orphanage to accommodate 80 pupils, and recoup Missionary Society for expenditure on school house and laundry; when the Orphanage is enlarged, the two day schools on the Reserve to be closed.

3. Provision for boarding schools at certain points and the closing of certain day schools.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

1. Grant for 80 pupils in the Coqualeetza Institute, instead of for 17 as at present.

2. The Institute property to be assumed by the Government, and the Society to be recouped for its expenditure thereon.

3. Provision for an Industrial School at Hugwilget, on the Upper Skeena, with accommodation for 80 pupils.

4. A grant for 30 pupils in the Girls' Boarding School at Port Simpson, and a similar grant for the Boys' Boarding School at the same place.

5. Provision for an Industrial School on Vancouver Island, at a point to be selected.

6. Provision for Boarding Schools at certain points on Vancouver Island, on the north-west coast of the mainland, and in the interior.

Of course, we do not expect that the Government will undertake all this at once; but we submit that it is not beyond what we have a right to expect within a reasonable period And we do expect that the Government will at once take steps to meet the most pressing needs, and give us the assurance that a more equitable policy will be pursued in the coming time.

All which is respectfully submitted.

A. CARMAN,
General Superintendent.

A. SUTHERLAND,
General Secretary.